NN/LM

National Network of
Libraries of Medicine
*South Central Region*

## News From the NN/LM SCR Office
-- Renée Bougard, Associate Director

On 1 May, we entered Year 04 of the current five-year RML contract. The following is our Outreach Plan for Year 04 excluding classes, which were presented in the previous issue of *Network News*. The complete Outreach Plan, including classes, is located on our web site at: http://www.nnlm.nih.gov/scr/outreachrpt.html

## Technology Fact Sheet
## Markup Language -- Its Development, Components and Use
-- Jack W. Raines, MAT, MLIS, AHIP, Extension Librarian, University of North Texas Health Science Center Library, Fort Worth, TX

### What is a Markup Language?
In the simplest terms, markup has historically referred to those marks an author or publisher makes on a printed page to direct a typist or a printer how to set up the page. This includes such things as an arrow pointing to the top of a page, drawn beside a lower case letter to tell

## SCAMeL Begins EFTS
-- Dohn H. Martin, Associate Director for Biomedical Informatics, University of North Texas Health Science Library, Fort Worth, TX

On April 8, 1999 the SCAMeL Board of Directors authorized a measured startup of the Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS). Sometimes referred to as the "beta plan", this startup will begin with approximately 50 libraries selected from the South Central Region (SCR). When fully implemented this electronic billing system will replace the ILL Coupon System used in the SCR for over a decade.

## SERHOLD/SCAMeL ULS Update
-- Sherry Porter, SCAMeL ULS Coordinator, University of North Texas Health Science Library, Fort Worth, TX

Since 1989, SCAMeL has maintained an OCLC union list group (SC@M) in addition to its SERHOLD holdings. All SCAMeL ULS participants that were not OCLC members were assigned a symbol that was profiled to this online union list group.

At its April 8 meeting, the SCAMeL Board decided to retain the OCLC group, but to de-profile most of the PALs. The only libraries eligible to remain in the SCAMeL OCLC group are Resource Libraries and PALs who are full OCLC participants. The change will become effective August 1, 1999.

With the beginning of a new contract year, we have redesigned our newsletter format. We hope you like it and welcome your feedback.

## News From the NN/LM SCR Office

### 1. Applied Technology

The Technology/Education Coordinator will continue to monitor Internet accessibility within the region and assist Network members and health professionals to gain access to and use the Internet. The Internet/Technology Committee, established in 1998, will assist the RML to implement the Internet program by updating surveys, assisting new Internet sites, and developing a regional telehealth/telemedicine directory. The Committee comprised of regional representatives meets each year at the South Central Chapter/Medical Library Association meeting for a sharing session, and in Houston for an all-day planning and needs assessment meeting.

*... "Classes will be offered to train librarians and health professionals to use the Internet successfully." ...*

The Technology/Education and Outreach Coordinators will stay current with funding opportunities for rural and underserved populations as well as urban hospitals and clinics. Newsletter articles, presentations at meetings, the Internet exhibit, the Library Improvement Projects, and Internet Connectivity projects will be used to publicize use of the Internet and the role of the NLM.

Classes will be offered to train librarians and health professionals to use the Internet successfully. The Internet classes recently developed include Internet protocols such as Telnet and FTP, HTML for web page design, downloading and optimizing Internet browsers, searching the Internet for resources, etc. The classes also include a history of the Internet, how to use the Internet for research, how to critically assess Internet resources, and how to use bibliographic management software. Various regional Internet training opportunities will be publicized on the NN/LM SCR web site,

the NN/LM SCR listserv and in Network News.

### 2. Direct Outreach to Health Professionals and Consumers

The NN/LM SCR staff and subcontractors will continue to identify unaffiliated health professionals in the region and market Network services to them. Health professionals and consumers will be referred to libraries in their respective subregions for services, with the HAM-TMC Library serving as the backup library.

Outreach subcontracts - Up to fourteen (14) Resource Libraries (RLs) and four (4) Access Libraries (ALs) will have subcontracts to assist the RML in the planning, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of Network activities. Each RL will serve a designated subregion, and each AL will serve a local area or segment of the health professional and consumer population. The Outreach Coordinator and the designated contacts from each subcontractor library will coordinate outreach activities.

East Texas Outreach Project (ETOP) - The Outreach Coordinator will continue to work with the ETOP Circuit Librarian project. This program serves 23 counties in East Texas. It is a collaborative program, which is partially funded by the NN/LM SCR office and the East Texas AHEC program, the Rose Country AHEC, and the UT Tyler Health Sciences Center, and is coordinated by the UT Tyler Health Sciences Library. The Circuit Librarian will provide PubMed/IGM/MEDLINE*plus*/Loansome Doc and technology training and support for Library Improvement projects at other sites in the East Texas geographical area.

Native American Project - The NN/LM SCR will contact, visit and extend outreach to three to four Indian Health Service clinics in New Mexico. This continues the successful project begun in Oklahoma in Year 01 and extended to New Mexico in Years 02-03. The Outreach Coordinator and the Associate Director will continue to work with the project teams in Oklahoma and New Mexico to assist and evaluate the project sites.

AIDS Information - Access to AIDS information will be promoted by continuing work with recipients of AIDS information funding from NLM, and by loaning the AIDS exhibit backdrops to community based AIDS organizations, public and health sciences libraries. Four Resource Libraries (one per state, except Texas) also have copies of the AIDS exhibit which they loan within their states. Two Resource Libraries in Texas have copies of the exhibit for loan in their areas.

Minority Contacts - During Year 04, the outreach subcontractors will continue to contact the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges, Predominantly Minority Colleges and Universities and Hispanic serving Institutions in the region which have health professional programs and have established working relationships with them. These institutions will continue to be contacted to arrange demos, training and to establish working relationships. The Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities are located in New Mexico and the Predominantly Minority Colleges are throughout the region. The contacts and on-going work with the Hispanic Serving Institutions will be expanded largely in Texas and New Mexico. Wherever possible PubMed/IGM/MEDLINE*plus*/Loansome

classes will be taught and/or demonstrated.

Consumer Health - The nucleus of a web-based telehealth/telemedicine directory was planned in Year 03. We will explore mechanisms and a pilot program for developing a list and links to local (subregion) hospital, clinic, health education, and public health web sites, as well as to telemedicine resources. The RLs will be encouraged to assist in this project. It is an opportunity for the RL contacts to collaborate further with the public libraries and local health departments in their subregions. In addition to its regional contribution, the RML will work with the NN/LM SCR members to develop an umbrella page pointing to national resources such as MEDLINE*plus,* Health Finder, Health Web, NOAH, NetWellness, and others.

The HAM-TMC Library has launched a major consumer health information service to coordinate library and information resources to meet the needs of consumers. It has developed "Texas Health Info," a web page for the HAM-TMC Library project, which is a collaborative partnership with public libraries, and health department clinical sites.

The Publications Assistant will continue to use MapInfo software to produce network and outreach maps for NLM and Network members.

## 3. Exhibits

The NN/LM SCR staff will exhibit PubMed/IGM/MEDLINE*plus*/Loansome Doc and the Internet at five (5) national meetings of health professionals, with the assistance of local librarians. Subcontractors will exhibit at regional meetings.

*...*"The NN/LM SCR will contact, visit and extend outreach to three to four Indian Health Service clinics in New Mexico."*...*

Whenever possible, the SCR staff and local librarians will make presentations and teach PubMed/IGM/MEDLINE*plus* and Loansome Doc, as well as Internet classes in conjunction with these meetings. Staff and subcontractors will continue to advertise the availability of exhibit backdrops, speakers and trainers through newsletter articles, NN/LM SCR listserv announcements, personal contacts, and mailings.

## 4. Library Improvement

Ten (10) new Library Improvement Projects (LIPs), will be implemented in region. These projects will include the provision of computer equipment and peripherals, fax machines, PubMed/IGM/ MEDLINE*plus*/Loansome Doc training, support for Internet Service Provider (ISP), and document delivery charges for one year. Site selection for LIPs will be based on SCR's current areas of emphasis, Hispanic, minority, Native American and rural, and needs assessed by the RLs for rural and inner city. Consideration will also be given to establishing these projects in areas associated with or located near Hispanic Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally-Controlled Colleges and Universities, and the two Predominantly Minority Colleges and Universities in the region, especially those which have medical, nursing, or allied health programs.

## 5. Internet Connectivity Projects

To continue to maintain a viable program that meets user needs and is consistent with the NN/LM Internet Survey findings, the SCR began to support Internet Connectivity Projects in Year 03 at 23 sites. The purpose of these projects is to establish connections or upgrade under-connected Network member sites, access the NLMs Internet - based resources, such as PubMed/IGM/MEDLINE*plus*/Loansome Doc, etc.

In Year 04, at least twelve (12) Internet Connectivity sites will be supported. Criteria for selection is based on the Internet Survey responses and assessed needs by the RLs in the region. Support includes workstation equipment as needed (computer, printer, fax and software), plus ISP funds for one year. The sites will comply with NN/LM member policies and procedures for training and information services to users.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas and concerns regarding program services and products. It is a new contract year and we are interested in hearing from you and responding to your needs. ∎

## Correction - The Year 2000 Problem

In the last issue of the *Network News*, the Technology Fact Sheet, by Susan Steelman, on the Y2K problem erroneously excluded footnotes through out the article. The corrected article is now available on our Web site at http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/scr/
We apologize for any problems this may have caused.

## Staff News

Melissa Sauceda married last month and is now Melissa Salas. Luckily, her email address hasn't changed. Congratulations Melissa!

## Technology Fact Sheet

the printer to keep the same letter, but change it to upper case. Writers do that with all written text by using punctuation and paragraphs to tell the reader how to read the text. A markup language must be very specific in determining what one is allowed to use, what one must use, and how those instructions, the markup coding, is to be distinguished from the text that is being presented. When applied to a computer, the codes must be constructed to meet exact specifications. That is necessary so all of the various browsers, through their programming, will interpret the codes consistently.

### What is the Standard Language?

Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) is an internationally accepted standard for the definition of methods of representing texts in electronic form. These standards are independent of the device (hardware) being used or the operating system of that hardware. SGML provides a means of formally describing a markup language, part of the series of symbols and commands used to make the computer's language. The standard includes all marked up electronic text, regardless of format, and is, therefore, a meta-language.

### Is SGML the same as HTML?

HTML (HyperText Markup Language) is a subset of SGML rules that has developed for some specific styles of documents shared on the World Wide Web. However, HTML also has limits. It can be used for text that is written left to right in lines starting from the top of the page, and in pages with each page continuing the same style; in other words, it can be used for office-style documents that historically would have been handwritten or typed. Under HTML, these documents can

contain text, graphs, charts, hyperlinks and multimedia subfiles. In theory, all browsers interpret a given code, or "tag" the same way, so if an author codes a phrase with the code for making text bold, that text will be in bold face print on all browsers. There have been exceptions when individual companies have superimposed a software program that has changed those codes, but the movement has been to standardize through the World Wide Web Consortium (W3) organization to keep HTML as a pure language, rather than allow it to become a "dialect."

### What about other styles of pages?

Not all communications are designed to be written in the office style report fashion. Music scores, chemistry or mathematics, architectural drawings, maps, and certain non-Western languages are some examples. There is software available that does not appear as a blank page ready for standard typing, but ready for musical notes to be interpreted from an electronic musical keyboard. There are programs that create a blank page ready for movable schematic drawings of military weapons or automobiles or architectural renderings. The idea behind SGML is to design standardized codes or tags that will result in all browsers interpreting the code to allow for those alternate designs.

### What is XML?

XML is an abbreviated version of SGML, to make it easier for a page creator to define the specific document types and to make it easier for programmers to design programs to match those specifications. It leaves out those parts of the whole SGML standards that are generally very complex, very specific and not often used. The advantage is that it facilitates the development of applications

*... "SGML provides a means of formally describing a markup language," ...*

W3C

*http://www.w3.org/*

**HTML**

that are easier to write, easier to understand, and more suited to the Web. However it is still SGML. XML files may still be parsed and validated the same as any other SGML file. XML is a project of the W3C, and their XML Working Group is supervising the development of the specification. XML is a public format: it is not a proprietary development of any company. The v1.0 specification was accepted by the W3C as Recommendation on February 10, 1998.

**SGML**

### What is CSS?
Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style such as fonts, colors and spacing to Web documents. Style sheets describe how the web documents will look on the screen. CSS is a subset of the SGML language used to create a single document, which can be used as a header for multiple pages. CSS is attached to HTML documents on the Web and is used to style HTML documents. It can also be attached to XML documents to specify consistent colors or spacing for various components of maps, music scores, or chemistry formulas.

**XML**

### Do we really need XML?
XML is of major significance because it removes the two major constraints that are restraining further Web developments: dependence on a single, inflexible document type (HTML) which has reached its potential for its purpose, and the complexity of full SGML, whose syntax allows many powerful but hard-to-program options.

**CSS**

### But music scores and maps are already on the web!
There are already music scores, topographic maps and complex chemical and mathematical formulas on the Internet in what appear to be normal pages. Using

HTML coding, it is easy to modify the text surrounding those items. It is not possible to edit the contents of those scores, maps or formulas using HTML. Those items are graphics files and the entire file is inserted into the document. To edit the map or picture, an additional editor or the original software needs to be opened. Then the picture file must be opened separately, edited, saved and the new file inserted again into the page. Using XML, these pages can be edited without opening additional software because they are all in the same document.

### Conclusion?
According to the W3C, to make SGML simpler, XML redefines some of SGML's internal values and parameters, and removes a large number of the more complex and sometimes less-used features which made it harder to write processing programs. Although it retains all of SGML's structural abilities that allow the document type to be defined, it also introduces a new class of document that does not require the use of a predefined document type. Obviously, there are almost endless possibilities and the potential for increased communication is limitless.

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## NN/LM SCR Listserv

Join Today
For more information go to:
http://www.nnlm.nlm.gov/scr/listsrv.html

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## Welcome to DOCLINE

LIBID-70816A
SERHOLD - CBR
Summit Hospital Medical
Library, Baton Rouge, LA

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**Webliography:**

* http://www.w3.org (the homepage for the World Wide Web consortium with links to many pages concerning HTML, CSS, SGML and XML.)
* http://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-sgml-xml-971215 (to compare the full SGML with XML.)
* http://lamp.man.deakin.edu.au/sgml/sgmlfaq.txt (10 FAQ's about SGML which has lots of information in summary form.)
* http://www.oasis-open.org (lots of background "white papers" and links to even more specific code-standards development. Search on the library page.) ■

## SCAMeL Begins EFTS

Each participating library will have an account managed by the Gibson D. Lewis Library at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. Beginnning the first week of July, lending libraries will upload ILL charge data to a file server at the Lewis Library. Accounts will be debited and credited monthly, redistributing electronic funds among the library accounts. Each library will be mailed monthly statements of account activity.

EFTS will reduce the billing and check cutting for both borrower and lender and eliminate the paper handling of the ILL Coupons. The EFTS software, developed by the University of Connecticut Health Center, has been used successfully for three years by the NN/LM NER.

Please contact Dohn H. Martin at dmartin@hsc.unt.edu for more information. ■

*... "lending libraries will upload ILL charge data to a file server at the Lewis Library." ...*

## SERHOLD/SCAMeL ULS Update

De-profiling a library's holdings does not mean that these holdings disappear from OCLC. It means that anyone looking at the SC@M ULS profile while online will no longer see the holdings of that library. If, however, a PAL is a member of another union list group (such as the Arkansas Union List of Serials, the Oklahoma Union List of Serials, or the Texas Statewide Union List of Serials), their holdings will still be displayed for those other groups - just not for SCAMeL.

Therefore, August 1, 1999 will be the last day that the SCAMeL ULS Coordinator will enter OCLC updates for members. All PALS who qualify to remain in the SCAMeL group (SC@M) will be required from that point forward to do their own online OCLC updating, or find someone to

do it for the library. Until more is known about future SERHOLD participation options, please continue to send me your update forms and I will continue to do the data entry for SERHOLD.

Your access to DOCLINE and to SERHOLD products like the microfiche and the custom holdings list will not change in the foreseeable future. Except for a few PALs who have a significant OCLC investment, most library routines will remain unaffected. Some PALs that are members of other OCLC union lists will have other options for data entry. These options were explained more fully in letters recently mailed to all ULS members.

Please contact me at 817.735.2467 with any questions. ■

*..."August 1, 1999 will be the last day that the SCAMeL ULS Coordinator will enter OCLC updates for members."...*

*Network News*

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